



The Marine Corps' Drum and Bugle Corps "marches" through Camp Pendleton. See Page D1 for story and photos.

# Scout

The Camp Pendleton



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# Marines role-play Iraq missions

## ■ Battle Simulation Center a medium for military dress rehearsals here

LANCE CPL. GRAHAM A. PAULSGROVE  
SCOUT STAFF

It's Saturday morning and a bunch of Marines are huddled around computers in separate rooms, battling each other. But this is no arcade, and they're not playing video

games. They're preparing for redeployment to Iraq by using computer-aided, combat simulation systems at the I Marine Expeditionary Force's Battle Simulation Center. "The BCS is an effective initial training tool with lots of real-world applications," said Thomas Buscemi, BSC director for I MEF. It's all about preparing Marines for combat, he said. Or, in the case of redeployment to Iraq, force-protection and antiterrorism roles. The training benefits those who man combat operations centers, or war rooms. It also ben-

efits front-line warfighters by providing "virtual small-unit tactical training," Buscemi said. The simulation center comprises a series of rooms, each dotted with maps, phones and a set of simulation workstations showing terrain and the forces being commanded. Commanders determine the best course of action in accordance with their missions, then tell their subordinates what to do. Marines man the computers or pick up a phone or radio to convey a command. When a command is given

— for example, an intelligence mission, a call for fire, or movement of troops — the computer operator carries out the command in cyberspace and the computer displays the outcome. If the enemy is attacking

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Capt. Robert P. Sorrells, inspector/instructor, 4th Tanks, 4th Marine Division, relays fire support orders at the Battle Simulation Center.

LANCE CPL. JEREMY GADROW



## Carrying a load



CPL. ROBERT STORM

Pfc. Fernando B. Hannon uses a fireman's carry Pfc. Justin R. Demaranville, both riflemen with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, at 52 Area Combat Town Feb. 26. During training, casualties and evacuations are frequently simulated. The fireman's carry sometimes is necessary to whisk a Marine to safety, especially if under fire.

## FSSG enters Iraq to relieve Army

LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BARD VALLIERE  
1ST FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RIDGEWAY, Iraq — Nearly half of the 1st Force Service Support Group has arrived and is settling in to its bases in Iraq, steadily preparing to receive the reins from the Army here. While its main mission will be providing supplies and other support to I Marine Expeditionary Force Marines operating in western Iraq, the Group also plans to conduct humanitarian assistance operations to help the Iraqi people start to rebuild their country. Slated to officially relieve the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in the spring, I MEF will take over security and stability operations in the newly liberated country. Replacing the 82nd Airborne's support elements, the 1st

FSSG will sustain the 1st Marine Division and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, said Lt. Col. Yori R. Escalante, 39, the Group's operations officer. Forty percent of 1st FSSG's Marines have left staging areas in Kuwait and are now in Iraq after near-constant convoys and flights. Once the rest of the Group's Marines arrive during the next month, its numbers will total approximately 5,000. The Group began transporting its forces into Iraq as early as Feb. 9, in preparation for the transfer of authority, said Escalante. Headquartered here, the 1st FSSG will oversee the operations of Combat Service Support Groups 15 and 11. The latter will directly support the 1st Marine Division's Regimental Combat Teams 1 and 7 with Combat Service Support Battalions 1 and 7. CSSG-15 will be responsible

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## Civilians among deploying personnel

■ They stay in the rear — but they're a key to success up front

LANCE CPL. SAMUEL PALMER  
SCOUT STAFF

When newspapers headlines or the 10 o'clock news report on deployments, they usually talk about men and women in uniform — not slacks, jeans or button-down shirts. But U.S. troops aren't the only people who deploy during times of war. A small number of civilian contractors and Department of Defense employees are usually called upon to support the troops "in every clime and place." Take Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39, for example. The MALS deployed six civilians to help support the Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Even though those civilians stayed in the rear, their jobs are pivotal to a successful performance on the front lines. Besides, their time overseas wasn't without a tense moment or two. "We had (enemy) SCUDS launch, and had a Patriot missile fly over our flight line about 25 feet above my head," said Ken M. King, a former Marine. "My job here is to give support to the Marines, whether it is in the country or overseas in Iraqi or Kuwait," said King, a T-

700 engineer technician attached to MALS-39. King, a native of El Toro and a DoD employee of the Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command, deployed with MALS-39 during OIF from January to May 2003. His primary duties overseas were not much different from those at Camp Pendleton — except that during OIF, he also served Army and Navy units. "I took on extra duties. My primary role was to support (Marine Aircraft Group 39); however, since the Navy Combat Unit and the Army Search and Rescue Units were there to support our Marines, I wanted to make sure our brothers could get in and out." King's expertise is helicopters. He advises Marines on proper engine maintenance and provides logistical support. He also trains both enlisted per-

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## 13th MEU Marines, families reunited

SGT. MARK P. LEDESMA  
13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT  
(SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE)

Back from Iraq — with mixed feelings about the job being over. That's how Sgt. Rogelio D. Pedrano feels about arriving home earlier than expected Monday, after a deployment that included everything from seizing drug boats to

bringing water to thirsty Iraqis. "I prepared myself for an eight-month deployment. I kind of wanted to do more, like go back deeper into Iraq," said Pedrano, part of the first wave of Marines and sailors arriving with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The unit returned after 6-1/2 months deployed. As the ship sailed closer and closer to home, the

thought of an early return began sounding better to Pedrano. "I have friends and family waiting at home and they're all happy for me," he said. "I'm ready to get off the ship." Families of the deployed Marines and sailors expressed no such ambivalence about the MEU's return. They overwhelmed their loved ones with joy and open arms after Marines came ashore here in

assault amphibious vehicles and landing crafts, air cushioned. "I'm very happy and excited because Mark is back with our son and I," said Becky Quinto, wife of Cpl. Mark Quinto, a data clerk with the MEU's Command Element. Shortly before her husband's departure, she gave birth to their son. When she

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## Marines, sailors make port call in Shanghai

■ Four-day stay marks new era of military exchange between superpowers

NAVY NEWS SERVICE

ABOARD USS BLUE RIDGE — Marking a new era of military cooperation between communist and capitalist superpowers, Marines and sailors aboard the U.S.

7th Fleet command and control ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) departed Shanghai, China, Feb. 28 after completing a routine four-day port visit. It was the fleet's second visit to the communist country in three years. While in Shanghai, sailors from the U.S. 7th Fleet staff and Blue Ridge, and Marines from 2nd Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team, 7th Platoon, took part in a wide array of

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OFFICIAL NAVY PHOTO

Marines and sailors aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet command and control ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) departed Shanghai, China, Feb. 28 after completing a routine four-day port visit.

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# DoD official: TSP could make you a millionaire

CPL. ROBERT E. JONES SR.  
SCOUT STAFF

Want to multiply your money more than tenfold before you turn 60? The Thrift Savings Plan might be the ticket, one Defense Department official says.

He cites the example of a Marine Corps sergeant serving in Iraq who — instead of buying a new car with his \$30,000 re-enlistment bonus — invested it in the Thrift Savings Plan.

“Assuming a 7 percent rate of return, his \$30,000 is projected to be \$345,000 by the time he reaches age 60,” said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. “If he continues to contribute to TSP throughout his career, he could have \$1 million by the time he retires.”

Despite those eye-popping prospects only 20.2 percent of Marines invest in the plan, according to Thrift Investment Board statistics.

At 32.2 percent participation, Navy sets the pace in embracing the plan, which operates much like a corporate 401K investment plan and delays taxes on invested income.

Air Force participation is at 21.2 percent. The

Army’s rate is 15 percent.

Camp Pendleton’s participation rate is 24.4 percent — 4.2 percent better than the Marine Corps at large.

“Out of a total population of 33,000 (eligible) service members upon Camp Pendleton, only 8,057 are actively enrolled in TSP,” said Sgt. Ray P. Sanchez, a systems analyst with the Manpower Information Systems Support Office at Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Enrollment for the Thrift Savings Plan begins April 15 and concludes June 30. Service members can sign up online or through their unit’s personnel administration office.

“TSP can be a valuable asset to service members, because it allows them to invest funds toward their retirement,” said Lance Cpl. Jessica M. Dowling, a Personnel Administration Center clerk for I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group.

“The TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan established for federal employees as part of the Federal Employee’s Retirement System Act of 1986,” Dowling said.

The TSP is open to active-duty and Ready Reserve service members, plus U.S. government civilians.

“Reservists who are also federal civilian employees will have two TSP accounts, if they are par-

ticipating as a reservist and a civilian,” Dowling said.

Total annual elected funds deferred may not exceed \$11,000 or 9 percent, whichever is greater — but those limits are going away. The maximum rate will be 10 percent in 2005 and unlimited in 2006, Dowling said. Specialty pay and bonuses also can be invested.

So how exactly do the funds invested work toward an individual’s retirement?

“Basically, the retirement income that you receive from your TSP account will depend on how much you have contributed to your account during your working years and the earnings on those contributions,” Dowling said, adding that all investments are tax-deferred.

That means investors won’t pay tax on the savings until they draw it out — presumably after they retire and are in a lower tax bracket.

Moreover, like 401K plans, service members can choose the investment fund they like best.

Five choices are available — Government Securities Investment (G), Fixed Income Index Investment (F), Common Stock Index Investment (C), Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) and International Stock Index Investment (I) funds, said Sgt. Terrance E. Mingo, a systems analyst with the Manpower Information Systems Sup-

port Office, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Risk is determined by the fund chosen. Generally speaking, more-stable funds yield steadier returns but don’t grow as fast over time as more-aggressive funds.

“The (G) fund has the least risk due to the stable stocks they incorporate. The other funds have varying risk depending on the stock,” Mingo said. “For instance, the (S) fund deals with small companies, which tend to be more risky.”

(I) and (G) funds tend to be the riskiest, he said.

Funds invested generally are not available without penalty until the investor reaches age 59. The penalties don’t apply under some circumstances.

“You may borrow against your plan for specific financial emergencies or to purchase a home,” Dowling said. “The loan amount can be between \$1,000 and \$50,000.”

Despite the plan’s potential for growth and tax deferment, participation won’t increase in an information vacuum, Mingo said. He said senior Marines need to encourage junior Marines to invest in their future early.

*Rudy Williams of the American Forces Press Service contributed to this report. E-mail Cpl. Jones at JonesRE@pendleton.usmc.mil*

## Upcoming events on base

### Blood drive

There will be a blood drive March 18 from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Assault Amphibian School Battalion, Building 210567. In support of all military operations overseas, the Blood Donor Center provides units of blood for our deployed troops. Please donate when the bloodmobile visits AAS on March 18. For more information or to schedule an appointment call Chaplain Roy Hoffman @ 725-205

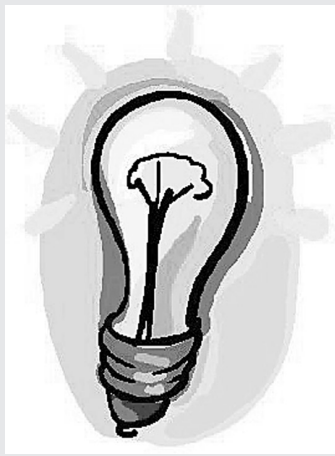
### 22 Area

On March 21 the 11th Street and Vandegrift Blvd. traffic signal will be turned off from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. so that electrical work can be done in the 22 and 24 Area.

This is the intersection near the main fire station and the main gate for Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton.

Stop signs will be provided for the duration.

## Energy-saving tip of the week



Replace light switches with motion or occupancy sensors. Good locations include the garage and exterior or security lighting areas.

Consider installing solid state dimmer switches and dimming the lights when less light is needed. Dimming reduces energy consumption. But don’t use them with most compact fluorescents, which are not compatible.

For more energy saving tips go to:  
[www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)  
[www.consumerenergycenter.org](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org)

## Center

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or making movements that are picked up on radar or observed by friendly forces, those movements are reported as well.

Meanwhile, commanding officers use radio gear to pass information, just like they would in the field.

Staff officers who trained on the simulation system extensively before going overseas reported that it prepared them well for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Buscemi said.

The only difference, they told him, was that “the casualty reports were real,” he said.

Simulated battles are fought at a real-world pace. For every action one side takes, the opposing side will react immediately.

The simulation center’s computer software and hardware can generate a plethora of different

scenarios and types of missions — including the kind Marines are facing this time around in Iraq, Buscemi said.

Maj. Darrin S. Brightmon, the commanding officer of Company A, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, was asked for his comments on the simulation center.

“I can’t talk right now. I have a war to fight,” he

“I can’t talk right now. I have a war to fight.”

Maj. Darrin S. Brightmon  
commanding officer

“(The simulator) shows the importance of everyone’s job.”

Cpl. Jonathon A. Welsh  
field wireman

said, before picking up the phone and redirecting his attention to his battlefield map.

Although the commanders dictate unit actions, the simulator conveys a clear sense of purpose to those who carry out the orders, said Cpl. Jonathon A. Welsh, a field wireman with 4th Tanks.

“Everybody’s actions affect the big picture,” he said. “(The simulator) shows the importance of everyone’s job.”

Simulated exercises are less expensive than Combined Arms Exercises and can be repeated without logistical support.

“Practice and use of the computer-aided combat simulations allows for an effective and inexpensive method to accomplish COC staff training,” Buscemi said.

Brightmon, after he finished calling the shots for his troops, weighed in on the simulation center.

“This is good training in preparation for the real thing,” Brightmon said. It’s good partly because it promotes situational awareness, Welsh said.

“The simulator lets you know about the other fields you deal with in a combat situation,” Welsh said. “The simulation gives you a better idea of the big picture.”

The Battle Simulation Center is open to all branches of the military.

“If you are going to deploy, this is the place to practice,” Buscemi said.

For more information, call 725-2385. E-mail Lance Cpl. Paulsgrove at paulsgroveGA@pendleton.usmc.mil

## A farewell accolade



SGT. DAVID M. MESSICK

Former Chief of Staff Col. Lee H. Farmer was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments as the base chief of staff after nearly three years, following one year as the assistant chief of staff operations and training at his retirement ceremony March 4. Col. Myron L. Hampton assumed the duties of Marine Corps Base chief of staff.

## Pendleton Points

Submissions for Pendleton Points must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. to make that week’s paper. Submissions can be brought to Building 1160, Room 113; faxed to 385-0053 or e-mailed to scout@pendleton.usmc.mil.

### VITA open for tax season

The tax season has begun and Volunteers Income Tax Assistance is open to file taxes for military members aboard Camp Pendleton. The service is free.

The center will be open until April 15 and operates Tuesdays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 763-2518.

### Family housing occupancy

Family housing is available in the following areas for immediate occupancy:

San Luis Rey: 12 houses are available to field grade officers.

Del Mar: 49 houses are available for field and company grade and staff noncommissioned officers.

O’Neill Heights: 24 houses available to field and company grade officers.

South Mesa: There are 45 houses available to staff non-

commissioned officers.

See the Central Family Housing Office for information or call 725-6246.

### Civilian Leadership Development luncheon

Civilian Leadership Development is hosting a luncheon March 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Mesa Club. The topic “Optimized! Your past is not your potential - Don’t walk backwards into you future!

Unleash your potential. Move beyond you past and into your optimal future!”

The cost is \$8.30 which includes a full buffet. RSVP to Virginia Grizzle at 725-6131 or e-mail grizzlev@pendleton.usmc.mil.

### Hospital seeks family readiness volunteers

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton seeks new assistant ombudsmen (known as Key Volunteers in the U.S. Marine Corps), or volunteer spouses, to help families of deployed staff.

The Ombudsman Program is an integral part of the command’s family readiness program.

Volunteers serve as primary communication links between the commanding officer and families of deployed personnel.

Assistant ombudsmen serve as personal liaisons for designated families, usually 10-15 families apiece.

For more information, call Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton’s family readiness officer, Cmdr. Mary Medina, at 725-0951, or Chief Petty Officer Michael Roberts at 725-6621.

### Churches to serve military families

Several local churches have come together to wash cars, perform household chores or serve military families in some other way for one morning next month.

The outreach, dubbed Operation Always Faithful, will unfold April 10 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Anyone interested in being served should call Patrick Crais at 473-8858 or e-mail phcrais@hotmail.com.

3rd ANGLICO seeks Marines to join reserves

Long Beach-based 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company is looking for Marine enlisted personnel and officers who will soon leave active duty to fill positions in the Ma-

rine Corps Reserve.

Officers with 03 and 08 military occupational specialties are needed in the 75XX MOSs to fill positions in firepower control teams, supporting arms liaison teams, brigade platoon headquarters and company headquarters.

Staff noncommissioned officers are needed to serve as joint terminal attack controllers Marines in the 3002, 0402, 9969, 9911, 3043, 0691 and 0431 MOSs also are needed.

For more information, call Capt. Chris Buehrer at (310) 832-0869, ext. 212, or Gunnery Sgt. Elisio Lozano at (310) 832-0869.

### Registration for preretirement seminar under way

Marines and sailors (officer and enlisted) contemplating retirement within the next two years are invited to a preretirement seminar April 13 through 16.

The seminar will run from 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. It will be held in the multipurpose room of the Base Entertainment/Bowling Center, Building 1339. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Preretirement seminars also will be held June 8-11 and Aug. 10-13.

For more information, call Val Valentine at 725-6207 no later than April 7.



## MEU

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heard the news that her husband was returning early from deployment, Becky was thrilled.

"I was teary-eyed when I saw him," she said.

The MEU returned home to San Diego nearly two months earlier than its originally scheduled return date.

While in Iraq, the MEU provided more than 3,000 gallons of water to Iraqi citizens on the Al Faw peninsula, conducted security patrols on rivers and in support of maritime interception operations, and destroyed more than

2,000 pounds of ordnance.

On Dec. 31, 2003, while in the northern Arabian Gulf, the MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force, along with sailors of the Expeditionary Strike Group 1, seized a dhow carrying 2,800 pounds of hashish worth approximately \$11 million.

"I couldn't be prouder of every single Marine and sailor in the 13th MEU for their professionalism during this deployment," said Col. Mike Regner, 13th MEU (SOC) commanding officer.

Units returning with the MEU include Battalion Landing Team 1/1, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (Rein), MEU Service Support Group 13, and the Command Element.

## Civilian

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sonnel and officers pertaining to different components of AH-1 Cobras, SH-60 Seahawks, UH-60 Blackhawks and AH-64 Apache engines.

Although King wasn't wearing camouflage green while deployed, he wasn't living in luxury either. Like the Marines they served, King and other civilians deployed to OIF lived in tents.

The sandstorms were an annoyance. The explosions he saw in the distance in Iraq were downright unnerving, he said.

King has been in and out of the Marine Corps since 1978. He took an early retirement in 1988 before landing a government job

at Camp Pendleton in 1993. "The way Marines treated me while deployed was pretty much the same as they do here," he said. Glenn D. McKenzie, a data planner for the Simulation Center, I Marine Expeditionary Force, spent eight months overseas during OIF.

He retired as a master sergeant in 2002 and took a job with Smart Tronix, a government contractor supported by the Marine Corps Networking Operation Security Command. A month after starting with the company, he deployed to Camp Commando, Kuwait. McKenzie was used to deploying with the Marines; this was his first time deploying without the uniform.

"It was pretty much the same with the briefs and shots. The one different thing about this deployment was that I had to

too, by playing a concert at The Shanghai Children's Home Feb. 27.

"It was one of the best quintet gigs we've ever done, because we got to work with the kids," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott Mythen, from San Antonio, a trumpeter player with the quintet.

"Right in the middle of the show, we walked from the stage into the crowd and let the kids explore the instruments. It was one of the best things we've done as a group."

Seventh Fleet sailors weren't the only ones demonstrating their abilities during the visit. PLA (Navy) sailors visited Blue Ridge Feb. 26 to see what their American counterparts do in case of emergency, specifically a helicopter crash.

Blue Ridge's fire marshal, Chief Petty Officer George Marquez, organized a crash and salvage team demonstration.

"I gave a tour to 10 PLA (Navy) officers, then the firefighting team gave a firefighting demonstration," said Marquez, a San Francisco native. "We showed them our firefighting capabilities."

After the demonstration, Marquez said the PLA (Navy) officers told him they thought the operation was remarkable.

"It was an eye-opening experience for them," said Marquez. "They were impressed that some of the ship's crew were cross-trained to fight fires along with their other jobs aboard the ship."

Through activities like friendly sport and musical exchanges, 7th Fleet and Blue Ridge sailors and Marines left a lasting impression on a deeply diverse and spirited city.

carry a passport with me," said McKenzie, who has a 22-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son.

"My wife knew it was something I had to do," he said about the deployment. She knew (being a Marine) was still in me."

Like King, McKenzie witnessed an attack at the camp where he was staying. A Chinese anti-ship missile hit 200 yards outside the camp. His Marine instincts took over.

"I was a Marine for over 20 years — I had the adequate training to know what to do in that situation," he said.

Neither King nor McKenzie are scheduled to deploy this time. But they're ready.

"Sure I'll go back. I am here to support you guys. That's my job, and that's what I love to do," King said.

Only one MALS civilian — Clay Chaffee — has deployed so far this time. Chaffee, who has a wife and two daughters, says he doesn't mind, even if his family is a little nervous about it.

"My wife is not to happy about it, but she understands," Chaffee said via e-mail from Kuwait.

The MEF deployed more than 50 civilians during OIF, McKenzie said.

The SCUDS can fly, and terrorists can lurk. But King says he feels secure enough in the presence of his green-side cohorts.

"Being with Marines, I didn't feel any sense of anxiety. That is one thing about the Marine Corps, they will check your six (backside)," King said.

E-mail Lance Cpl. Palmer at palmerSW@pendleton.usmc.mil

## Shanghai

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activities while in Shanghai, ranging from a 7th Fleet Band performance to tours of a PLA (Navy) ship.

Also, Vice Adm. Robert F. Willard, 7th Fleet commander, and Capt. J. Stephen Maynard, Blue Ridge commanding officer, met with senior People's Liberation Army (PLA) (Navy) officials.

Willard also met with Shanghai Vice Mayor Feng Guoqing and Vice Adm. Zhao Guojun, PLA (Navy) East Sea Fleet commander.

A tour of the PLA Navy guided-missile frigate Lian Yun Gang (FFG 552) Feb. 25 led 7th Fleet and Blue Ridge sailors through some of the ship's spaces, including the bridge, chartroom and flight deck.

Such military exchanges between the two Cold War superpowers began in 2000 and marked stepped-up military cooperation after decades of mutual suspicion and mistrust.

"Exchanges of this type are excellent in enhancing diplomatic relations between the Chinese and the U.S.," said Lt. j.g. Dan Avondoglio, from New Providence, N.J. "We're putting our best foot forward and demonstrating more openness between two very different countries — a communist country and a democratic one."

Lian Yun Gang served as escort during Blue Ridge's initial trip up the Huangpu River Feb. 24 to a pier overlooking Shanghai's skyline. Sailors said Lian Yun Gang was in tiptop shape the

day of the tour.

"Overall, it was cleaner than I expected," said Petty Officer 3rd Class (SW) Christopher Smith, 23, from Bridgeport, Conn. "It was a nice tour. The bridge of the ship looked to be technologically advanced and had very sophisticated equipment."

Some took advantage of the port visit to tour China's capital city of Beijing.

The two-day tour included sightseeing, a silk factory visit and a cultural exhibition.

"The tour to Beijing was worthwhile," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Schrade of Baker City, Ore. "How many people can say 'I've been in the Forbidden City, I've walked on Tiananmen Square, and I've climbed on the Great Wall?' Well, now I can."

Tours weren't the only activities during Blue Ridge's visit to Shanghai.

A basketball game between Blue Ridge's 'Blue Tide' and a PLA (Navy) team Feb. 25 resulted in some friendly competition between the two country's sea services.

"It's good to come out and see our team playing internationally," said Petty Officer 1st Class Mortonford McNair, from Dayton, Ohio. "They have some pretty good players."

The Blue Tide won the game, 94-39, but still managed to swap some gameplay strategy with the Chinese team.

"It's very interesting to see how differently they play basketball than us because of their playing tactics," said Seaman Miranda Marable, from Thomasville, Ga.

The 7th Fleet Band's Shonan Brass quintet left an impression in Shanghai,

**"Opening our hearts in Christian Love and Compassion to those in need"**



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**MISSION ROAD SELF STORAGE**

**STORAGE**

**Half-Ironman volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed to support the Ralph's California Half-Ironman (bike portion only) on April 3 on Camp Pendleton. Volunteers assist participants at aid stations to include handing out water, oranges, etc. Prizes will be donated the best aid station. For more information contact Carmen Carlisle at 725-3856 or Master Sgt. Kelley Ramsey at 725-5215.

You See A Puppy, A Blind Person Sees The World



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for the Blind, Inc.

371 E. Jericho Turnpike  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
1-800-548-4337  
[www.guidedog.org](http://www.guidedog.org)

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